

assembled together, the external antenna opening and the apertures in the interlock tabs together define a pathway for receiving the antenna unit.

4. A system according to claim 3, wherein the external antenna opening is threaded, and wherein the antenna unit has a threaded portion corresponding to the threads in the external antenna opening such that when the antenna unit is inserted through the external antenna opening into the receiving apertures, the threaded portion of the antenna unit engages the threads in the external antenna opening.

5. A system according to claim 3, wherein the external antenna opening comprises corresponding halves that are molded into the upper and lower housings.

6. A system according to claim 3, wherein the upper and lower housings include a twist fit arrangement for holding the antenna housing in place after it is inserted through the external antenna opening and the receiving apertures.

7. A system according to claim 3, wherein the upper and lower housings include a snap fit arrangement for holding the antenna housing in place after it is inserted through the external antenna opening and the receiving apertures.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the interlock tabs are located proximate to a side of the upper and lower housings.

9. A system according to claim 1, wherein the interlock tabs are integrally molded with the upper and lower housings.

10. A system according to claim 1, wherein the upper housing includes a snap element at one end that attaches to a corresponding snap element on the lower housing.

11. A portable telephone, comprising:

an upper housing and a lower housing;

an interlock tab mounted to each of the upper housing and lower housings, each interlock tab having an aperture shaped to closely receive an antenna unit,

the interlock tabs being disposed relative to each other such that when the upper and lower housings are assembled together, the apertures in the interlock tabs together define a pathway for receiving the antenna unit, such that when the antenna unit is inserted through the receiving apertures, the antenna unit and the interlock tabs hold the upper and lower housings together.

12. A portable telephone according to claim 11, wherein the upper housing includes on its front face an array of holes to accommodate a keypad, a display window, an earpiece, and a mouthpiece.

13. A portable telephone according to claim 11, wherein there are first and second interlock tabs mounted to the interior wall of the upper housing and third and fourth interlock tabs mounted to the interior wall of the lower housing, each interlock tab having an aperture shaped to closely receive the antenna unit,

the interlock tabs being disposed relative to each other such that when the upper and lower housings are

assembled together, the apertures in the interlock tabs together define a pathway for receiving the antenna unit, and such that when the antenna unit is inserted into the receiving apertures, the antenna unit and the interlock tabs hold the upper and lower housings together.

14. A portable telephone according to claim 13, wherein the interlock tabs are disposed relative to each other such that when the lower and upper housings are assembled together, the first and second interlock tabs lie between the third and fourth interlock tabs, abutting them, thereby providing stability to the upper and lower housings along the longitudinal axis of the antenna unit.

15. A portable telephone according to claim 11, wherein the lower housing includes a threaded external antenna opening for receiving the antenna unit, the external antenna opening being positioned such that when the upper and lower housings are assembled together, the external antenna opening and the apertures in the interlock tabs together define a pathway for receiving the antenna unit, the antenna unit having a threaded portion corresponding to the threads in the external antenna opening such that when the antenna unit is inserted into the receiving apertures, the threaded portion of the antenna unit engages the threads in the external antenna opening.

16. A method for locking together an electrical apparatus having an upper housing, a lower housing, and an antenna unit, the method comprising:

(a) providing first and second interlock tabs disposed along the interior wall of the lower housing and third and fourth interlock tabs disposed along the interior wall of the upper housing, each interlock tab having an aperture shaped to closely receive an antenna unit, the interlock tabs being disposed relative to each other such that when the upper and lower housings are assembled together, the apertures in the interlock tabs together define a pathway for receiving the antenna unit;

(b) holding the upper and lower housings together such that the receiving apertures are in alignment;

(c) inserting the antenna unit into the receiving apertures such that the antenna and the interlock tabs holding the lower and upper housings together.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein step (a) includes providing corresponding snap elements at one end of the upper and lower housings, and wherein step (b) includes snapping the snap elements together.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein the electrical apparatus is a portable telephone, and wherein the method includes the following additional step (a1) between steps (a) and (b):

(a1) assembling the portable telephone between the lower and upper housings.

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